

# OPTIMISM CLUB MEMBERS GIVE VIEWS ON AMBITION

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by pure and lofty desires. An ambition to promote happiness and relieve distress is most praiseworthy, most creditable. Its pursuit will reveal startling possibilities for the education and prosperity of the world. Mrs. E. P. FRANK, 123 G street northwest.

Ambition is a spirit in the world that causes all the ebbs and flows of nations, keeps mankind sweet by sorrow. Without ambition the world would be a filthy, settled mud. Mrs. B. EDELIN, 138 Park road.

The shades of night were falling fast, As through an Alpine village passed A youth who bore 'mid snow and ice A banner with the strange device— Excelsior!

His brow was sad, his eye beneath Flashed like a falcon from its sheath; And like a silver clang rung The accents of that unknown tongue— Excelsior!

"Beware, the pine tree's withered branch! Beware, the awful avalanche!" This was the peasant's last good-night; A voice replied far up the height— Excelsior!

A traveler by the faithful hound Half buried in the snow was found; Still grasping in his hand of ice That banner with the strange device— Excelsior!

There in the twilight cold and gray, Yuleless, but beautiful he lay; And from the sky serene and far A voice fell like a falling star— Excelsior!

Why this constant crying out of the soul of man for a higher life, for freedom from existing conditions, for perfection? This our ambition and inherent inclination looking to the reclamation of Adam's lost estate forfeited by Father Adam. Ambition with other aims is of the deceiver and leads only to disappointment. H. R. MIDDIFF, 228 Flagler place.

Ambition is an earnest desire or steadfast purpose to achieve something commendable or that which is right in itself. It is an ambition to improve one's character and abilities—Standard. Mrs. EMMA L. GIBBING, 29 Grand street, New York, N. Y.

Ambition is the germ from which all growth of nobleness proceeds.—English. In youth I had an ambition to shine in the world, to be something above the average. Circumstances prevented me from becoming a "shining light" but I found myself in a position to help others to shine. In my declining years I find a satisfied ambition in knowing that some of the lamps I have trimmed are very bright, and even the little ones are illuminating their spaces to the best of their ability. M. F. V., 22 New Jersey avenue northwest.

Ambition is a restless, surging sea of energy or life within the soul that strives to attain an end superior to its present attainment. Its eagle eye piercing the veil perceives the award of courageous and persistent effort; hence it finds no rest beneath its ideal of success. Our ambition is most noble when its domain is our guide, when self is eliminated, and we aspire to exalt our neighbor to the eminence of our persistent and supreme effort. God's ambition is the world's salvation and optimism is the agent of His strength, for wisdom says seek ye another's wealth and not your own, for our own interest is best served by the true success we render to others. Mrs. T. C. CHAMBERLAIN, 214 South Chadwick street, Philadelphia, Pa.

An ambition which has conscience in it will always be a faithful and laborious engineer, and will build the road and bridge the chasms between itself and eminent success by the most faithful and minute performance of duty. The liberty to go higher than man is given only to the top, where ambition, to his credit and good, has earned the well-merited praise of others, and the full satisfaction of having done one's best. A. E. R., 22 New Jersey avenue northwest.

There is no limit to ambition. There is no height which cannot be attained. From the tiny child, whose sole ambition is to talk and walk and run, on through the evolution of ambition for greater achievements, reaching out for knowledge, sometimes power, climbing the rounds of life's ladder, often slowly, but in the end reaching the top, where ambition, to his credit and good, has earned the well-merited praise of others, and the full satisfaction of having done one's best. A. E. R., 22 New Jersey avenue northwest.

To take ambition from a soldier is to rob him of his spurs—Macbeth. Let me live by the side of the road, Where the race of men goes by; Where the good they are bad, they are weak, they are strong, Wise, foolish, and so am I.

Then why should I sit in a corner's seat Or hark a cryer's ban? Let me live in a house by the side of the road, And be a friend to man. Sam Walter Foss, 43 M street northwest.

"Ambition is but the soul of thought expressing itself through duty in action, through the will power to achieve all that is good and ennobling in this life, and in numerous other ways, good and bad, for there are both good ambitions and bad."

But if we are blessed with a strong desire to be of some help in the world, to bring happiness to those who are less fortunate than those of our fellow-men whom we believe are in need of a helping hand, or, in other words, to be just as God teaches us to be, then ambition when expressed in such a manner is a beautiful thing; a part of our everyday life and putting us in harmony with God and our fellow-men. TALOOM D. LAMBORNE, 111 Fourteenth street northwest.

Learn to do by doing, Grip your task and try; Those that won't surrender Conquer by and by. Struggle and striving, Action makes for skill; Fate won't dare to say, "You can't!" If you declare "I will." L. C. DANIELO, 42 Florida avenue northwest.

O, for all other joys above, To beed ambition's call to duty; God and humanity to serve and love, And in helping others find life's beauty. SARAH E. ADKINS, 221 F street.

Where justice vindicates and wisdom guides, Where inward dignity joins outward state, Our purpose good as our achievement great; Where public blessings, public praise attend, Where glory is our motive, not our end; What would be so famed; though those high accents in view. Young, G. E. DUDLEY, 122 Twelfth street northwest.

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We must have a goal toward which to strive, and with a goal and a crucial test of the genuineness of our ambition is whether "self" or "let's help" be our motive. Napoleon went to pieces on this dangerous rock of "self," and was trying to quiet conscience when he said, "I desire to achieve to reach to among the people I have loved too well." Florence Nightingale or Dr. Grenfell did not feel that "the people" could be loved "too well," but recognizing that "self" is a poor legacy for them, have had for their life's work the ambition to bequeath to them a "burning and a shining light," which was started with the little flint "let's help," and whose rays will shine from generation to generation in the hearts of the benighted and needy. Let's strive to build our ladder like theirs, that, resting on a platform of love, we may satisfy our ambition by climbing rung after rung of "our duty." Mrs. B. HOLLIFIELD, 16 Hammond street.

"Too low they build who build beneath the stars." BELLE G. SAUNDERS, 163 Third street northwest.

The true ambition there alone resides Where justice vindicates and wisdom guides; Where inward dignity joins outward state, Our purpose good, as our achievement great; Where public blessings public praise attend, Where glory is our motive, not our end; What would be so famed? Have those high accents in view. ROLF THELAN, Forest Service.

The very name "ambition" suggests energy, life, and advancement. A man or woman without it is, indeed, a sorry spectacle. It is not been for the ambition of our ancestors we should have never had this wonderful country with its wonderful history and achievements. We should be without many conveniences that we now have and would be denied numerous

things which we use in everyday life. If it had not been for ambition in man, he would have been a life without progress and not attempt to improve on things. The results of such a condition may be easily imagined. In conclusion, I feel that ambition is about as important to the universe as any other one thing. RALPH W. BARNARD, 16 House Office Building.

The man who seeks one thing in life, and but one, May hope to achieve it before life be done. But he who seeks all things wherever he goes Only reaps from the hopes which around him he sows. A harvest of barren regrets. Owen Meredith, M. JANE MOOR, 206 G street northwest.

The highest ambition is: "Live up to the best that is in you; live noble lives, as you all may, in whatever condition you may find yourselves, so that your epitaph may be that of Euripides: 'This monument does not make the famous; O Euripides, but that makes this monument famous.'"—Longfellow. Mrs. L. H. HARTSHORN, Washington, D. C.

Ambition is "an eager desire or steadfast purpose to achieve something commendable or that which is right in itself." (Second definition of ambition in Standard Dictionary.) It is a lever that will remove great obstacles and make life seem well lived. D. PAY CARB, Hutchinson, Minn.

The world is filled up with ambitions. The silly as well as sublime; We all have our own way of thinking How best we can put in the time. The desire of some men is meekness, And others want fame and renown, While some seem to like nothing better Than just to be classed as a clown. Some men are quite proud to be lawyers, To counsel, orate, and write wills, While others aspire to be doctors, And to do so with quinine and pills. A few have ambition as authors, Some artists, some sculptors, as well; Some other folks want to be merchants, With nothing to do but to sell. Some people are anxious for clerkships, And serve Uncle Sam if they can; So let us each do our full duty, Above all things else be a man. D. J. FINN, Post-office Department.

Man feels himself a god fallen from a high estate, And ever looks beyond the present time and place; Ambition is the path by which he hopes to climb Back to the sunlit heights belonging to his race. Man sometimes dreams and reasons, Thinks and works and prays, While some release their pent-up selves With food and sleep; But man's ambition leads him on from star to star— He scales the mountain tops and conquers the great deep. Small minds have small desires, but great minds crave the stars; Ambition leads them on to great and unknown. With it we soar like an eagle, take a station above our fellow-men, and often select a poster and govern nations by our nod.—Bartlett. CAROLINE E. DUDLEY, 122 Twelfth street northwest.

Rest not! Life is sweeping by; Go and dare before you die; Though mighty and sublime, Let us strive to conquer Time; Glorious 'tis to live for aye, When these forms have passed away. In the world's broad field of battle, In the bivouac of life, Be not dumb like dumb, driven cattle, Be a hero in the strife. Lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime, And departing leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time. WILLIAM E. JOHNSON, 39 Delaware avenue northwest.

Bread 's recognized as the staff of life, but only physically. Ambition is the staff of life from a spiritual standpoint. God has given us bread in order that we may have strength for the battles of this life. Every man with full reasoning power is ambitious in some way, but all are not successful, for their courage fails at the slightest obstacle and their hopes seem shattered; but if you build a castle in the air, and at evening it is destroyed, begin again the next morning and build another on a firmer foundation. Who has not desired to have his name blazoned on the open scroll of the world? He who has not is, indeed, hardly worthy of notice. The life of the silk worm, the ant, and the bee alike set the example to

three sons are three followers of his own; he rests from the gallows by presenting himself in disguise as a volunteer hangman, and then with a blast of his famous horn—the same that William Tell used to shoot the arrow through the apple hanging from the sheriff in their stead. And the death of Robin Hood shows him pious and chivalrous to the last. Feeling ill he visited his cousin, the prioress of Kyring, who undertook to bleed him. She did this so effectively as to kill him. He had only strength feebly to blow his horn, but that was enough to call the faithful Little John, who in his rage besought his dying master for leave to burn the nursery. Robin refuses: I never hurt woman in all my life. Nor at my end shall I be. And so he died, and was buried at his own wish in the spot which fell like an arrow he shot—with a green sod under my head. And another under my feet. And my bent bow by my side which was my music sweet.

Learn to swim. Advice Which Applies to Washington as Well as Baltimore. The accidental drowning of five girls in the Hackensack River, New Jersey, recently, when a gust of wind upset a rowboat in which they were crossing, "Don't go near the water," it was and is, a lesson that should be heeded every summer, call attention to the importance of learning to swim. Girls can swim as well as boys, and every girl ought to find opportunity to learn how. In the Hackensack River case the three men escaped because they could swim, but the young women all went to the bottom. To women who have not learned to swim the old injunction, "Don't go near the water," is wise and infallible. But some time or other every woman runs the risk of getting splashed into deep water, and for that mishap she needs a little knowledge and practice in swimming. A very little of this knowledge goes a long way. It prevents her from getting terrorized and enables them to keep afloat, or get to a boat, plank or oar. The best time to learn is when a child and in the summer. Once learned, it is never forgotten. The girls who attend the proposed wedding, forbid it, and has Allen-a-Dale married to the maiden instead. The story of the "Potter" shows Robin stern to men and courteous to women; the "Widow's

helps to make others happy is the best, even if the art is never forgotten. W. W. CARB, Pension Office.

To help each other should be our best ambition. If any little kindly deed Will help along another, If any little son of ours Will life a fallen brother; God help us do the little deed, And take our share of singing. And put it in some lonely vale To set the echoes ringing. ROSE EARLE BARCOCK, Wesley Heights, D. C.

Ambition is the incentive through which our talents are developed until they reach the highest degree of excellence. Fredericksburg, Va. B. G. H. MONCURE, 206 G street northwest.

So take and use Thy work, Amend what flaws may lurk, Arise from the slumber, what warplings What part the aim! My time be in Thy hand, Perfect the cup as planned; Let us approve of youth and death Complete the same! ISABEL C. PRICE, Edgemoor, Va.

Without ambition we may exist, but no one lives in the true sense of the word who is not ambitious. Always reach out for something better, higher, greater until we climb to the top rung of the ladder. Our ambitious aspirations will surely meet with fruition if we are brave, courageous, persevering, faithful, hopeful, kind, and considerate, always remembering we must help each other. MARY I. REED, 140 Irving street.

To be ambitious of true honor, of the true glory and perfection of our nature is the very principle and incentive of virtue; but to be ambitious of titles, of place, of ceremonial respects and civil honors, is to be ambitious of things which are which we court.—Sir P. Sidney. A. B. GRAVE, 28 E street northwest.

Look high, O soul! for what is wealth but dust, And the fleeting shadow of the better things. The heavens are thine if thou wilt only try wings, And sighs are songs if thou wilt only trust. Aim high, O soul! for on the higher forms Is always room; the lower ranks are filled; Who climbs the heights will find earth's no less a field, and peace above the storms. M. M. GARNER, 122 Twelfth street northwest.

There were two sentences inscribed upon the Delphic oracle, hugely accommodated to the usages of man's life: "Know thyself" and "Nothing too much," and upon these all other precepts depend.—Plutarch. M. AGNES DUNK, 122 Twelfth street northwest.

Ambition is the germ from which all growth of nobleness proceeds.—T. D. English. M. E. PHAW, 121 North Carolina avenue southeast.

Ambition creates opportunities. They conquer who believe they can. The greatest oaks have been little acorns. America's greatest men came from obscurity. Napoleon's ambition carried him from obscurity to the head of the French nation. The great Salvation Army leader, carried his cause in face of intense ridicule, but lives to see it a power for good the world over. Have confidence in yourself and you will command confidence. Without ambition this world would be in a state of chaos. A smooth sea never made a skillful mariner. Set your heart on what you have in hand. Valuable knowledge is acquired only by intense devotion. You must not waste leisure time; it is fatal to success. Be content to learn one thing at a time if you hope to succeed in life. Whatever you learn, learn it absolutely. This will enable you to advance step by step, and some day you will wonder you were able to disabate people who seemed so far ahead of you. He or she that intends to be something cannot be denied; they will reach their goal. In the world's broad field of battle, Be not dumb like dumb, driven cattle, Be a hero in the strife. Lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime, And departing leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time. WILLIAM E. JOHNSON, 39 Delaware avenue northwest.

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the chosen subjects of an All-wise Being. Not only in art and the sciences ought we to be ambitious, but, no matter what our position in this life may be, we should strive to reach the top of the ladder in our respective sphere. We were not placed upon this earth simply to live, breed, and die, but to do things and live eternally. Our forefathers were ambitious to build a great republic, and they succeeded far beyond their greatest expectation. Had ambition not stirred them to great deeds we still might be subjects of England. It is clearly shown that some of our greatest and responsible positions, Abraham Lincoln is a good example. With unnumbered barriers thrown in his way, he reached the top of the ladder of our national aspirations. One who has ambition, pluck, and courage is almost sure to be successful in this life. Many who claim to have ambition make a very feeble show, falling back into some well-established rut after only slight failures. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." The clock will always roll away and the sun appear and shine with renewed splendor; and so, if we fall and try again, every successful effort will be crowned with light and glory. Some people with little ambition have risen to excited positions through the influence of their friends, but the truly happy one is he who has earned his reward by his own efforts. So let us in passing leave "footprints on the sands of time." B. B. HOLBROOK, 222 G street northwest.

For his own soul's law learn to live, And if men thwart thee take no heed, And if men hate thee have no care, Sing thou thy song and do thy deed; Hope thou thy hope and pray thy prayer, And claim no crown they will not give. EDNA BENNETT, 124 Eighth street northwest.

A noble life is not ablaze Of sudden glory won, But just a piling up of days In which good work is done. If what shone afar so grand Turn to nothing in thy hand, On again the virtue lies In the struggle, not the prize. Not failure, but low aim is crime. PAULINE L. JONES, 222 G street northwest.

Whatever you want if you wish for it long With constant yearning and ceaseless desire; If you wish soaring upward on wings so strong That they never grow languid, never tire, Why, over the storm clouds and out of the dark It will come flying some day to you, As the dove with olive branch flew to the ark. And the wish you've been dreaming it will come true. Ella Wheeler Wilcox, C. W. MELACE, College Park, Md.

There is no greater deed than inspiring humanity with aspirations.—Ella Wheeler Wilcox. EVA JACKSON, 222 G street northwest.

Ambition is an unusual desire to accomplish something more than ordinary, to become more enlightened in a certain thought or action, to help ourselves financially, physically, or spiritually. It is that power of the mind or soul that acts as an incentive to spur us on to success and glory. It is a sure and reliable guide to the highest attainment of success. It is not limited or confined within any bounds, and its accomplishments are almost unlimited in every field of action or vocation in life. It is a wonderful power, silent, unseen, yet ever present, so strong, sure, and enticement that failure cannot defeat it, but only forces it on to greater effort and increased activity; and the best and most successful of all is the knowledge that it will not allow us to stop until success is achieved. It is a treasure so valuable that it cannot be bought or sold. CHARLES FRANCIS GLASS, Houtsville, Md.

Ambition teaches us to live with every fiber of our being; to have the courage, the enduring strength of iron and steel, not only "to have and to hold," but to get to keep our pulses full and fast, fire and passion alive and strong, and to purify and exalt our life. "No man can rise above that at which he aims," we must "see things and tell the world," says Ruskin. We must train for conduct, not only for high results, but for the high, not only for health and optimism; to keep up high spirits and an active brain; to love humanity and gain love in return. We do not want to live on the reputation of our great, great ancestors, although we serve to wash ambition's hands. The men of the past centuries did their work well, but we want to-day's men and women who dare to do. Ambition never looks back, but ahead of the sun, the engine of life. "If ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt hath lost its

savor, where with shall ye be salted?" We cannot live on past honor any more than we can live on last week's food. We strive to reach the top of the ladder, and distinction as far as we are able. We must see for our own power and guidance as standing in vital relation to God and man. Then look to our children reaching out of our best for something better in them. This is the life, the life, the ambition, the light of man, "for instead of the fathers should be the children." ALICE SHARPE BALCH, 122 E street northwest.

It was necessary for the world that arts should be invented and improved, books written and transmitted, and westerly nations conquered and civilized. Now since the proper and genius motives to these and the like great actions would only influence virtuous minds, there would be no incentive to the world; there were not some common principle of action working equally with all men. And such a principle is ambition or a desire of fame, by which great exertions are not suffered to be useless, or to be of the public. We may further observe that men of the greatest abilities are most fired with ambition, and that, on the contrary, mean and narrow minds are the least actuated. CATHERINE CUNEO, 122 Ninth street northwest.

The words and experiences of the illustrious men and women of ancient and modern times prove that ambition was the magnet that drew out all the necessary attributes of the man of destiny that made them happy and great in their chosen life work. Alexandria, the conqueror of the world, claimed that ambition was the parent of his success. Demosthenes, the great orator of all orators, who had to speak with the pebbles in his mouth as he stood by the rippling waters to try to overcome the impediment in his speech from childhood, which the world thought of as a defect, was the man who started out simply with the idea of getting rich would not succeed. You must have a large ambition. There is no mystery in business success. Therefore, let all true optimists keep a stick of dynamite, and be ready before the boys and girls of to-day, who soon will be carrying this torch for the good or bad of all mankind that ambition will preach them on the "op round" of life without murmuring, and, too, ambition, fame, and leave behind an honored name. O. B. WHATELY, 208 E street northwest.

Ambition is the motive power of life. It incites us to action; it paints in glowing, lurid colors the picture of success; it enables us to tread along the hot and dusty paths of life without murmuring, and, too, patiently, if wearily, scale the dizzy, stony mountain heights, for ever before us shines the goal of our desires, like the Lord of old, luring us, forcing us on. And yet in the vast machinery of ambition's dreams lies the peril, for ambition unrestrained is as dangerous to humanity as is the engine that rushes madly on without the guiding hand of the engineer. Since we see a stick of dynamite should be the steady brain, the tender heart behind that controls, but are not controlled, for boundless ambition lacking poise and feeling has ever reached the pinnacle of life without murmuring, and, too, ambition, fame, and leave behind an honored name. O. B. WHATELY, 208 E street northwest.

A strange picture we make on our way to our chimeras, ceaselessly marching, grudging ourselves the time for rest; indelible, adventurous pioneers. It is true that we shall never reach the goal, or even more than probable that there is no such place. And if we lived for centuries and were endowed with the powers of a god, we should find ourselves not much nearer to the goal than the end of our tolling hands of mortals! Unwearied feet, traveling ye know not whither! Soon, soon it seems to you you must come forth on some conspicuous mountain peak, and there, in the presence of all, the setting sun, decay the spirit of El Dorado. Little do you know your own blessedness, for to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is in the journey. Mrs. PAMELA TAYLOR GORR, Solons Park.

## LEGENDS OF ROBIN HOOD HAVE A FASCINATION

From the London Globe. According to an account it was on Christmas eve, 1247, that the renowned outlaw of Sherwood, whom Wordsworth declared "a famous man was Robin Hood, the English ballad singer's joy."

To a great extent despite the iconoclastic assaults of destructive criticism, Robin Hood is still a name to conjure with, quite apart from his perennial appearance in pantomime. Just as Sidney could never hear "the old song of Percy and Douglas" without his heart being "moved more than with a trumpet," so to some the old story of Robin Hood comes with the music and sweetness of the fresh wind singing joyously among English woods, the thrill and stir of brave and kindly deeds and gallant fights, of loyal comradeship and glad, free lives, glamor of woodland and song of bow.

Like King Arthur, Robin Hood is a national asset—and he is like the blameless king in this, too, that he eludes all efforts to give historical chapter and verse specifically authenticating either his existence or achievements. And because this is a myth; he is wooden, he is a sun god, he is another form of Puck, he is a woodland deity—and goodness knows what besides. Whether these learned theories are more reasonable or credible than to hold that there was actually an outlaw of this name who was sufficiently notorious and popular to be looked upon as a hero may be questioned. The earliest legends present a quite comprehensible and non-mystical individual; there is no suggestion of the supernatural; Robin is emphatically very human, and withal of a type admittedly historical in the period in which he is placed.

But leaving this question aside, and taking Robin Hood simply as he is presented to us in the old ballads, we must admit that there is a lasting fascination in the story, even allowing for its extravagances and glaring improbabilities. Probably the conception that most of us have about the romantic outlaw is founded upon or materially colored by his por-

trature in Scott's "Ivanhoe," which, by the way, is not in accord with the earliest traditions that it makes no mention of "Maid Marian," who undoubtedly seems an accretion of later date. The quasi-historical account, to which it is not at all necessary to subscribe de die, is, according to Stukeley, that Robin Hood was the son of William Fitzooth, Earl of Kyme, in the twelfth century, that having lost or dissipated his property he took to the life of an outlaw, and with his merry men "feeted the time carelessly as they did in the golden age," that he was pious—after his own fashion; lived a free and active life, was much loved by the common people and others who were in distress; was in and out of favor with the king, but always the latter with sheriffs and clerical dignitaries, and finally at a good old age was treacherously put to death.

The antiquary Stowe says, "About 1190 lived Robin Hood. . . he suffered no woman to be oppressed, violated or otherwise molested; poor men's goods he spared, abundantly relieving them with alms that he took from abbays and the houses of rich avarice. . . but of all thieves (the historian) affirmeth him to be the prince and the most gentle thief." Baker, writing in his "Chronicles," reported that he was said to be of gentle blood. The earliest mention of him in literature is by Langland in the middle of the fourteenth century, not a hundred and twenty years after the date given for his death, and the manner of the reference makes it plain that ballads concerning him were then familiar to all. One of the characters in "Piers Ploughman" admits that he knows nothing of the rudiments of religion, "cannot perforce my Paternoster, as the priest it singeth" (but knew) "rimes of Robin Hood." The "heart of Huntington" theory is supported by an alleged epitaph over the outlaw's grave at Kirkless, Yorkshire: "Hear underneath this laith stean Laith Robert, earl of Huntington. . . peple kaud him Robin Houd. . . The genueness of this epitaph it is not stated, generally denied, but the pros and cons on this and similar disputed records are far too voluminous to be more than mentioned. There is something to be said for the

contention that the calling of "outlaw" in Robin Hood's day was in public opinion held as little morally wrong or disgraceful as was deer stealing in Shakespeare's time, or smuggling a hundred years ago. In the case of Robin Hood, however, "outlawry" has been held to mean that he was a patriot Saxon, or, according to other accounts, a loyal adherent of Richard the Lion Heart against the usurping John.

As we seen him in the old ballads, it is not his robberies that are so much recorded as his bravery, his simple piety, his loyalty to his comrades, his succor of the oppressed. The "old" ballads—without entering too closely into the question of their comparative earliness or authenticity—may be reckoned as the seven, all probably certainly some, prior to 1590, when appeared the "Lytell geste of Robyn Hode and his myrry men, and of the proude Sheryfe of Notingham." These are "Robin Hood and the Monk," "Robin Hood and Allen-a-Dale," "Robin Hood and the Bishop," "Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne," and "Death of Robin Hood." And each and all of these show the outlaw with the character above given, and with personal and very human traits perfectly consistent with a well-founded tradition of a real individual. In the first Robin and Little John have a squabble and separate, Robin going to mass at a church in Nottingham, where he is recognized by "a great hooded monk," betrayed to the sheriff, and condemned to death—being promptly rescued by Little John.

In the ballad of Guy of Gisborne there is another squabble between the friends, and when they have parted it is Little John who is captured and cast for death, being rescued by Robin. Allen-a-Dale is a "brave young man" whose sweetheart is about to be forcibly married to an old knight. He falls to Robin's hands, tells his story, and Robin Hood with his merry men attend the proposed wedding, forbid it, and has Allen-a-Dale married to the maiden instead. The story of the "Potter" shows Robin stern to men and courteous to women; the "Widow's

PLAYING CARDS WERE KNOWN TO THE ANCIENTS

The earliest direct mention of playing cards discovered so far is in the "History of the City of Viterbo." The author quotes Covelluzzo, who wrote about the end of the fifteenth century as follows: "In the year of 1378 was brought into Viterbo the game of cards, which comes from the country of the Saracens and is with them called nab."

It is worthy of remark that Covelluzzo did not write at the date he mentions, but a century later, in 1480, and it is quite possible that he may have been mistaken in attributing the cards to Saracenic origin or may have simply been quoting a popular tradition. The Saracens were familiar with nabbs, the predecessors of cards, but they did not invent the game of cards, of which nabbs were only a part, says the Baltimore Sun.

The earliest date about which there can be no dispute at which playing cards are directly mentioned by a writer as a matter of personal experience is that discovered in the register of the court treasury of France in the reign of Charles VI. The entry is under the date of February 1, 1382, as follows: "Given to Jacquemin Grignonneur, painter, for three packs of playing cards, in gold and various colors and ornaments with several devices, to carry before the Lord our King, for his amusement, 56 sols of Paris."

## PLAYING CARDS WERE KNOWN TO THE ANCIENTS

In Paris are really very fine Venetian tarok cards and are part of an edition made at least as late as 1425. During the twenty years that follow this date of the first mention of the cards is full of references to playing cards. Almost every author that mentions games or gambling paraphernalia particularizes one or more games of cards. But before that date almost nothing has been found to a game that could be construed as a card game, although there are several writers who might reasonably be expected to mention cards if they were acquainted with them.

Hugo von Tymburg, who wrote in the second half of the thirteenth and the beginning of the fourteenth century; Petrarch, who wrote in the first half of the fourteenth century; Chaucer, who wrote in the second half of the fourteenth century, make no mention of cards, although there are references to gambling games and implements.

In the Escorial library there is a manuscript composed by order of Don Alphonso the Wise, dated 1221, which gives the rules for a number of games, especially chess and dice, but does not contain a word about cards.

But one naturally asks, if the earliest mention of cards is to be found in the register of a royal treasurer of France, where did cards come from if they were not a new thing to him? To go back a little it is well known that there existed long before the date of any mention of playing cards a series of emblematic pictures called nabbs, which were used for purposes of fortune-telling and sorcery. It is probably these nabbs that were brought to Europe by the Saracens, and perhaps even were supposed to be of Saracenic origin.

Authorities seem to be pretty well agreed that toward the end of the fourteenth century some inventive genius, probably a Venetian, selected a number of these series of numerical cards, and added to them a series of numerical cards, so as to convert them into implements by which the excitement of chance and the interest

of gaming might be added to the amusement afforded by the original nabbs. The principal reason for assuming that cards originated in Italy and not in France is that the names of the cards themselves and the names of the earliest known games played with them are all Italian, and that these Italian terms were carried all over Europe. If they were of French origin the nomenclature might be expected to be French.

There is abundant evidence that the playing cards which rapidly found their way all over Europe were made in Venice. As early as 1480, the Venetian government issued a law that no one was to make or sell cards, and that the national fancy, until there is nothing left to-day of the original faith, charity, justice, and fortitude which were represented on the first Italian packs.

Snakes of East Africa. From Forest and Stream. For one thing East Africa must have credit; snakes are not numerous, as they are in the South, at least I never have seen many. Their pits, however, they do not appear to be dangerous. I shall never forget how, down in South Africa during the war, I once awoke and found a black mamba in bed with me. This snake is absolutely deadly. It frightened me so that after the whole thing was over I went out and was sick. Fortunately I was quite ignorant of the fact that it was under the blankets with me and rolled out unconcernedly. Had I known it was there, in all probability it would have struck me.

Little Girl's Long Journey. From the Calgary News. Annie Brown, a five-year-old Irish girl, has just reached Calgary after a journey of more than 2,000 miles made absolutely alone from start to finish. During the trip she was well cared for by passengers on boats and trains who became interested in her artless story of how she was going to Canada to meet her daddy, who promised to take her to school.